

**Report Date:** 02 Feb 2013

**Summary Report for Individual Task  
081-833-0016  
Insert an Oropharyngeal Airway (J Tube)  
Status: Approved**

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DISTRIBUTION RESTRICTION: Approved for public release; distribution is unlimited.

DESTRUCTION NOTICE: None

**Condition:** You have an unconscious casualty requiring an oropharyngeal airway adjunct, (OPA). You will need three different sized OPAs, gauze pads or disposable tongue depressors. You have performed a patient care hand wash and body substance isolation precautions are taken. You are not in a CBRN environment.

**Standard:** Insert an OPA without causing further injury to the casualty.

**Special Condition:** None

**Special Standards:** None

**Special Equipment:**

**MOPP:**

Task Statements
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**Cue:** None

**DANGER**

None

**WARNING**

Use an OPA for an unconscious casualty only. Do not use an OPA on a conscious or semiconscious casualty because he may still have an active gag reflex. In such cases, a nasopharyngeal airway (NPA) would be more appropriate. An OPA should not be used in children who may have ingested a caustic or petroleum-based product, as it may induce vomiting.

**CAUTION**

All body fluids should be considered potentially infectious. Always observe body substance isolation (BSI) precautions by wearing gloves and eye protection as a minimal standard of protection.

**Remarks:** None

**Notes:** None

### Performance Steps

1. Select the appropriate size of OPA.

- a. Place the airway beside the outside of the casualty's jaw.
- b. Measure from the casualty's ear lobe to the corner of the mouth.

Note: The measurement from the ear lobe to the corner of the casualty's mouth is equivalent to the depth of insertion in the airway.

## WARNING

If a neck or spinal injury is suspected, use the jaw thrust maneuver to open the airway.

2. Perform the head-tilt/chin-lift or jaw thrust maneuver to open the airway. (See task 081-831-0018.)

3. Open the casualty's mouth.

- a. Place the crossed thumb and index finger of one hand on the casualty's upper and lower teeth at the corner of the mouth.

- b. Use a scissors motion to pry the casualty's teeth apart.

Note: If the teeth are clenched, wedge the index finger behind the casualty's back molars to open the mouth.

4. Insert the OPA.

- a. Insert the airway with the tip facing the roof of the mouth.
- b. Slide the OPA along the roof of the mouth. Follow the natural contour of the tongue past the soft palate.
- c. Rotate the airway 180° as the tip reaches the back of the tongue.

Note: The airway may be difficult to insert. If so, use a gauze pad to pull the tongue forward or a tongue blade to depress the tongue.

## WARNING

If the casualty starts to regain consciousness and gags or vomits, remove the airway immediately.

- d. Gently advance the airway and adjust it so the flange rests against the casualty's lips or teeth.

Note: The tip of the airway should rest just above the epiglottis. If the flange of the airway did not seat correctly on the lips, repeat the procedure using a different size of airway.

5. Evacuate the casualty.

Note: The airway may need to be taped or tied in place to avoid dislodgement during evacuation. If so, the casualty must be constantly monitored for the return of consciousness.

6. Did not cause further injury to the casualty.

(Asterisks indicates a leader performance step.)

**Evaluation Preparation:** Setup: For training and evaluation, use a cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) mannequin capable of accepting an OPA.

Brief Soldier the simulated casualty is unconscious and breathing. The casualty does not have an active gag reflex.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES	GO	NO-GO	N/A
1. Selected the appropriate size of OPA.			
2. Performed the head-tilt/chin-lift or jaw thrust maneuver.			
3. Opened the casualty's mouth using scissors technique.			
4. Inserted the OPA.			
5. Evacuated the casualty.			
6. Did not cause further injury to the casualty.			

**Supporting Reference(s):**

Step Number	Reference ID	Reference Name	Required	Primary
	0-13-119265-5	EMT Complete: A Basic Worktext	No	No

**Environment:** Environmental protection is not just the law but the right thing to do. It is a continual process and starts with deliberate planning. Always be alert to ways to protect our environment during training and missions. In doing so, you will contribute to the sustainment of our training resources while protecting people and the environment from harmful effects. Refer to FM 3-34.5 Environmental Considerations and GTA 05-08-002 ENVIRONMENTAL-RELATED RISK ASSESSMENT.

**Safety:** In a training environment, leaders must perform a risk assessment in accordance with FM 5-19, Composite Risk Management. Leaders will complete a DA Form 7566 COMPOSITE RISK MANAGEMENT WORKSHEET during the planning and completion of each task and sub-task by assessing mission, enemy, terrain and weather, troops and support available-time available and civil considerations, (METT-TC). Note: During MOPP training, leaders must ensure personnel are monitored for potential heat injury. Local policies and procedures must be followed during times of increased heat category in order to avoid heat related injury. Consider the MOPP work/rest cycles and water replacement guidelines IAW FM 3-11.4, NBC Protection, FM 3-11.5, CBRN Decontamination. In a training environment, leaders must perform a risk assessment in accordance with FM 5-19, Composite Risk Management. Leaders will complete a DA Form 7566 COMPOSITE RISK MANAGEMENT WORKSHEET during the planning and completion of each task and sub-task by assessing mission, enemy, terrain and weather, troops and support available-time available and civil considerations, (METT-TC). Note: During MOPP training, leaders must ensure personnel are monitored for potential heat injury. Local policies and procedures must be followed during times of increased heat category in order to avoid heat related injury. Consider the MOPP work/rest cycles and water replacement guidelines IAW FM 3-11.4, NBC Protection, FM 3-11.5, CBRN Decontamination.

**Prerequisite Individual Tasks :** None

**Supporting Individual Tasks :** None

**Supported Individual Tasks :** None

**Supported Collective Tasks :**

Task Number	Title	Proponent	Status
03-5-1014	Establish Civil Support Team (CST) Medical Support	03 - CBRN (Collective)	Approved

**ICTL Data :**

ICTL Title	Personnel Type	MOS Data
68W - Health Care Specialist - SL1	Enlisted	MOS: 68W, Skill Level: SL1